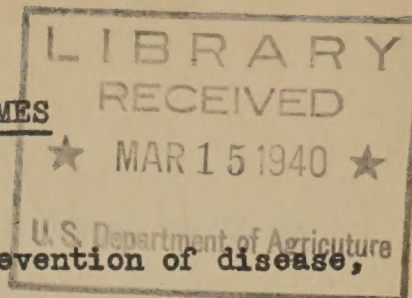


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U.S. Farm Sec. Admin.

THE SANITARY PRIVY FOR FARM HOMES

19403



Of the many weapons in use today for the prevention of disease, perhaps none have been more successful, especially from the standpoint of money expended, than the sanitary privy. From ancient times to the present, one big stumbling block in the path of public health has been the proper disposal of wastes from the human body. In the city or urban area the problem has been met by the modern sewerage system with its disposal plant. In rural areas where running water is available in the home the problem of waste disposal is easily met with the use of the septic tank and underground disposal field.

The majority of farm homes are not equipped with running water and the above methods are not applicable for disposal of waste. The sanitary pit privy provides the best means for disposal of excreta when running water is not available. Thousands of these privies have been built throughout the country within the past few years. This type is practically standard although some variations will be found in several states.

Certain diseases such as typhoid fever, dysentery, diarrhea and hookworm diseases are transmitted by body excretions from persons suffering from or carrying the disease. The hookworm egg present in the excreta of infected persons when deposited on the ground hatches into larva and it is this larva which infects other persons. Typhoid fever and dysentery are transmitted to well persons by foods, milk, and water, which have been contaminated with the excreta from diseased persons. Flies form an important link in the chain of transmitting

the disease from excreta to foods. All of these diseases would be practically eliminated if all human excreta could be disposed of properly.

There are certain fundamentals to be considered in the building of a privy:

1. The receptacle for receiving and storing the fecal matter must be tight.
2. The receptacle should be so located as to avoid the pollution of water supplies, prevent the contents from overflowing to the surrounding ground, or surface water flowing into the receptacle, and should be convenient and accessible for use.
3. The receptacle should be constructed of such material and in such manner as to prevent rapid deterioration, to provide adequate capacity and facilitate maintenance.
4. The privy receptacle should be ventilated so as to provide a continuous escape of odors through a screened vent.
5. The privy should be so maintained as to fulfill the foregoing principles at all times.

The following illustrations show the type most commonly built which meets the above principles. The success of the privy in preventing disease, after all, depends upon its proper use and maintenance. In Figure 1, there are shown the three steps in the construction of the privy. Step #1 (right of illustration) shows the pit with three sides walled with spaces between the boards to permit escape of liquids. The concrete mud sill bears the weight of the slab and building. Step #2 shows the slab and riser placed on the mud sill over the pit. Step #3 pictures the complete unit except that the mound can not be seen. The vents are connected to the side and rear of the building. Figure #2 is a sketch showing all the features of this unit.

The following information is for the use of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, in connection with the proposed project.

There are several considerations to be considered in the following:

1. The project is located in the following area:

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Just a few pointers on the care of the privy:

Keep the inside of the building clean. Dirt and papers only add to the odors.

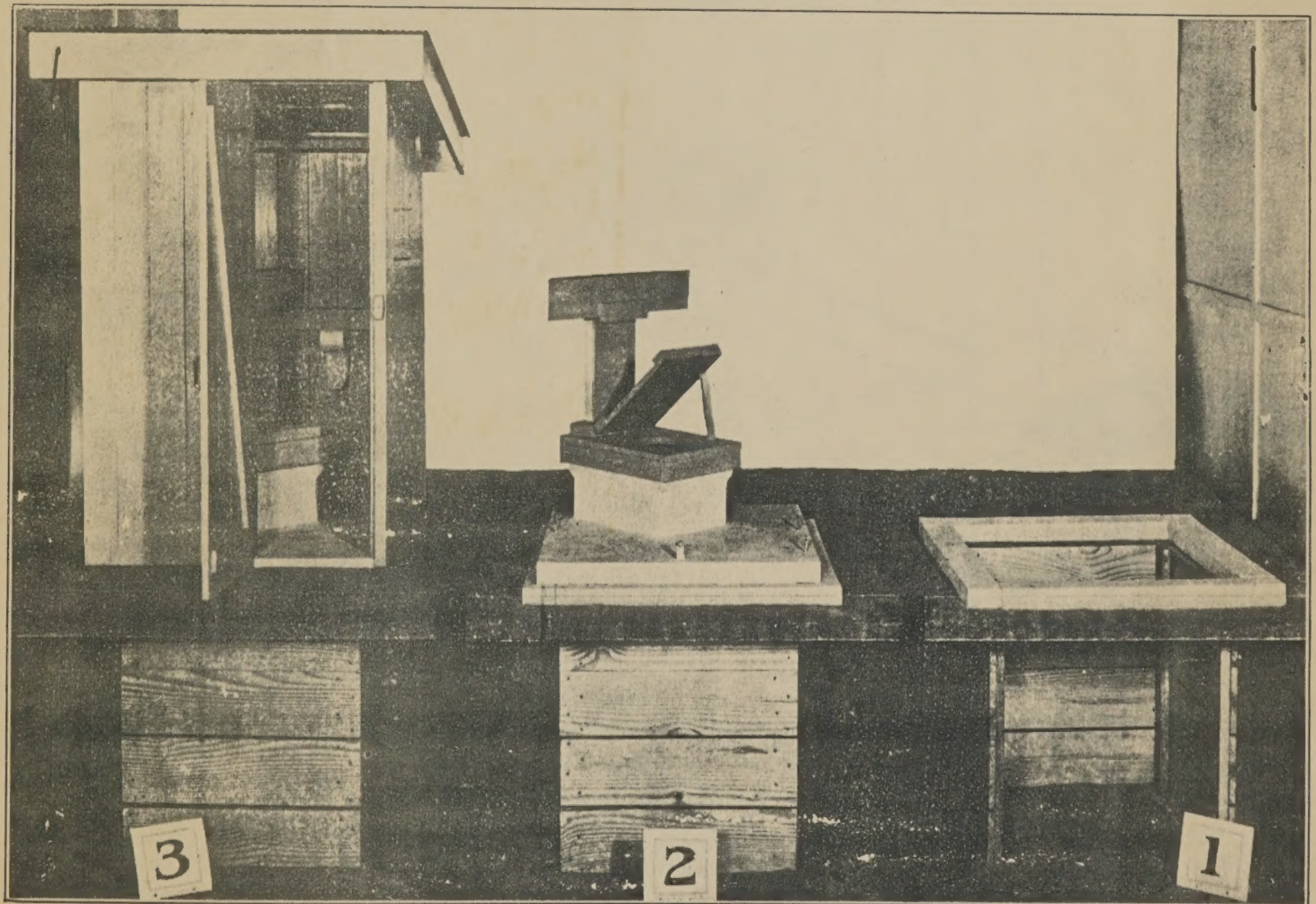
Keep the seat cover closed. It was provided to keep flies out of the pit when not in use.

Use soft tissue paper. Hard papers fill the pit rapidly.

Garbage and rubbish do not belong here. Find another place for them.

Add some earth to the mound occasionally and tamp it down tightly to keep out surface water.

When the pit is full move the privy to a new site, being watchful so as not to contaminate the water supply.



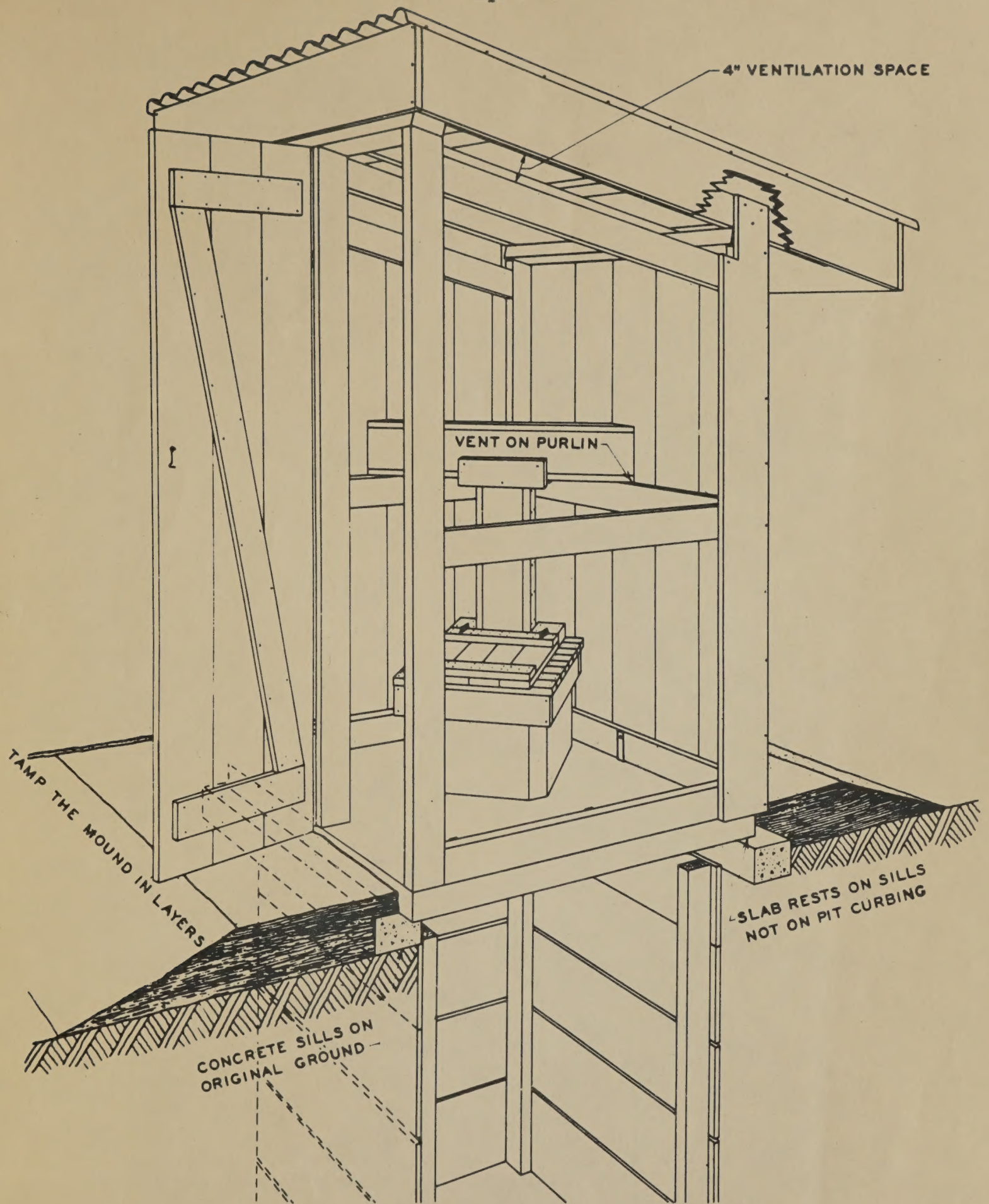
CONCRETE SLAB TYPE OF PRIVY

1. Pit Construction with
Concrete Sills in Place

2. Pit Concrete Slab
with Seat and Vent

3. Complete Unit

Illustration: Courtesy of Delaware State Board of Health



SANITARY PIT PRIVY
Illustration: Courtesy of U. S. Public Health Service.

